

URGENT REQUEST FOR PRAYER
IN RESPONSE TO THE NORTHEASTERN JAPAN PACIFIC COAST
EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Following the horrific earthquakes and tidal waves damaging the vast Pacific coast region of Northeastern Japan on Friday afternoon, March 11, 2011, the immediate heartfelt prayer support and encouragement from you, our Christian brothers and sisters around the world, is greatly appreciated. On behalf of the Japan Baptist Convention, I want to express our deepest gratitude.

These three days, struggling with broken telephone service, we have attempted to communicate with all seventeen JBC churches and mission points in the crisis area. Finally this morning, March 14, communications have been restored to the extent that we have a better grasp of most local church situations. Basically, the inland churches and mission points sustained breakage to their smaller structures, but the larger buildings were not severely damaged. Unfortunately several members of the JBC churches living in the vicinity of the Pacific coastline remain unreachable; we are anxious for their safety.

Additionally, about half of the fourteen JBU (Japan Baptist Union) churches and mission points are along the coast, and most of these have serious damages. Again, there is great concern for the church members who are unaccounted for.

Our most urgent concern at this point is the crisis with the Nuclear Power Plants in the stricken region. The danger from accidents caused by rise in temperature inside the nuclear reactors is being compared to the Three Mile Island problem several years ago in the USA. The fear and suffering sustained from earthquakes and tsunami is being multiplied by the panic of radiation exposure.

Four members of **BWAid Rescue 24** arrived at Narita International Airport, north of Tokyo on Saturday, March 12, but with all means of transportation still broken from the disaster, they did not arrive in the main stricken city of Sendai until Sunday, March 13, after midnight. Early Monday morning, the 14th, this team immediately began their inspection and assessment of the many needs.

Daily life in the Tokyo metropolitan area, located on the periphery of the crisis, has been affected. Transportation has been reduced, streets and train stations are crowded with people unable to reach their destination. Today, the 14th, due to power shortages in the entire region, the power company has a "planned power outage." Therefore, most trains will be unable to run during the outage. With limited fuel supply, many cars will not be able to run. This will affect two-thirds of our JBC staff.

On March 12, here at the JBC headquarters, we established the **Disaster Relief Headquarters for the Northeastern Japan Pacific Earthquake**, to assemble information to distribute to all persons and organizations involved, and to channel financial support for our JBC relief activities.

Our human minds cannot begin to comprehend this crisis which exceeds our greatest fears. We pray for our Lord God to be merciful to the thousands of victims suffering deep grief and immeasurable pain and hardship. We pray for the Lord to provide His Peace, Comfort, and Hope. We pray that those victims suffering alone in the cold will quickly be rescued. We pray that during this crisis, the Baptist Churches of Japan will know and follow the Lord's leadership, and that we will walk with Him in faithful service.

Let us pledge our continuing support for all the Baptist churches in Northeastern Japan and the victims surrounding them. Let us join our hearts in prayer as we enter this long-time commitment to sustain a ministry of relief work in His Name and for His Glory.

In His Service,
Makoto Kato
Executive Director
Japan Baptist Convention

Information for Contributions:

- PAYING BANK : MIZUHO BANK,LTD.
- A/C WITH BRANCH : URAWA BRANCH
- ADDR : 1-4-9 Nakamachi Urawa-ku. Saitama City,336-0062 JAPAN
- SWIFT CODE : MHBKJPJT
- A/C NUMBER : 541-1243429
- PAYEE NAME : JAPAN BAPTIST CONVENTION
- ADDR : 1-2-4 Minami Urawa. Minami-ku. Saitama City,336-0017 JAPAN

(JBC is willing to forward contributions to JBU upon request.)